

REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 2-7, 9-10, 12-14, 16-18, and 20-35 are pending in the application; claims 1, 8, 11, 15, and 19 are canceled herein, and claims 27-35 are newly added

The applicants respectfully request the Examiner to acknowledge the claim for priority and receipt of certified copies of all the priority document(s).

The applicants thank the Examiner for determining that the drawings are acceptable.

The applicants thank the Examiner for providing information about recommended section headings. However, the applicants respectfully decline to add the headings. Section headings are not statutorily required for filing a non-provisional patent application under 35 USC 111(a), but are only guidelines that are suggested for applicant's use. (See Miscellaneous Changes in Patent Practice, Response to comments 17 and 18 (Official Gazette, August 13, 1996) [Docket No: 950620162-6014-02] RIN 0651-AA75 ("Section 1.77 is permissive rather than mandatory. ... [T]he Office will not require any application to comply with the format set forth in 1.77").

The Office action objects to the specification; the specification is amended per the Examiner's suggestion.

The Office action objects to the Claims for inclusion of reference numerals that are not enclosed in parentheses; the claims are amended to remove the reference numerals.

The Office action objects to claims 9 and 10; claims 9 and 10 are correspondingly amended herein.

The Office action indicates that claims 10, 20, and 22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 10, 20, and 22 are corresponding amended herein, and claim 24 is amended to included features corresponding to the features of claim 10. Each of claims 2-7, 9, 12-14, 16-18, 21, 23, and 25-26 are amended to be dependent upon one of these independent claims.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection(s) and/or rejection(s) of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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